

Message Text

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45

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 081066

O R 261457Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8884

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16952

EXDIS NOFORN

DEPT ALSO PASS U.S. INTEREST CAIRO

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL: GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GW, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: EC MINISTERIAL: FOLLOW-UP ON MIDEAST DECLARA-
TION

REF: BONN 16222 (NOTAL)

SECRET

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BEGIN SUMMARY. RESTRICTED NOV 20 MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION
OF MIDEAST FOCUSED ON DIPLOMATIC FOLLOW-UP TO NOV 6
DECLARATION AND ELABORATED GUIDELINES ENTAILING CAUTIOUS
WARNING TO ARABS NOT TO OVERPLAY THEIR HAND. MINISTERS
ALSO AGREED THAT "CONTACTS" OF STILL UNDEFINED CHARACTER

SHOULD OCCUR WITH ISRAEL. GIVEN WISH TO AVOID CONFRONTATION BETWEEN FRENCH AND BRITISH AND THE DUTCH, MINISTERS DID NOT GO BEYOND NOV 6 TACIT UNDERSTANDING ON OIL SUPPLY ISSUE. BUT OIL ISSUE LOOMS EVEN LARGER IN PERSPECTIVE OF DEC 14-15 EC SUMMIT. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE FONOFF SOURCE, MIDEAST ISSUE WAS CONSIDERED DURING HIGHLY RESTRICTED SESSION OF NOV 20 EC QUARTERLY MINISTERIAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS. MIDEAST DISCUSSION OCCURRED IN ATMOSPHERE OF INTENSE CONCERN OVER HOW TO RECONCILE DIVERGENT NATIONAL INTERESTS WITH NEED TO FIND OVERALL COMMUNITY SOLUTION. WE ARE TOLD THAT FRENCH AND BRITISH TEMPTATION TO PURSUE "I'M ALRIGHT JACK" POSTURE WAS BALANCED OFF BY FRANK DUTCH WARNINGS THAT HOLLAND WOULD NOT BE THE ONLY RPT ONLY EC MEMBER STATE TO PURSUE COMMUNITARIAN POLICY. WE UNDERSTAND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEP MOTORED TO BONN THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL ALONG DESERTED NETHERLANDS HIGHWAYS TO MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR TO SCHEEL AND TO APPEAL FOR GERMAN SUPPORT "IN THE FRG'S SELF INTEREST."

2. GIVEN THIS PERSPECTIVE, OUR SOURCE SAID THE MINISTERS AVOIDED DIRECT CONFRONTATION ON OIL SUPPLY PER SE, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON HOW BEST TO FOLLOW-UP DIPLOMATICALLY THE NOV 6 MIDEAST DECLARATION. THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC TALKS WITH BOTH SIDES OF THE MIDEAST DISPUTE, WITH THE VIEW TO ASSESSING POSSIBLE EUROPEAN ROLE CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL PEACE GUARANTEES AND HOW BEST TO PROTECT EUROPEAN INTERESTS. GUIDELINES WERE WORKED OUT FOR USE, BOTH BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES AND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINE AS A WHOLE, WITH ARAB STATES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, IN TALKS WITH THE ARABS, THE EUROPEANS ARE EMPHASIZING THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES OF A COOPERATIVE ARAB RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IMPORTANT EC TRADING BLOCK, THAT THE GOAL OF "ARAB BROTHERHOOD" SECRET

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IS MATCHED BY EUROPE'S DETERMINATION TO FORGE SOLIDARITY AND COMMUNITY, AND, GENTLY, THAT UNREASONABLE PRESSURES CONCERNING OIL CAN ONLY REDUCE ABILITY AND WILL OF EUROPEANS TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY CONCERNING ARAB DESIDERATA. THERE ALSO WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE NINE SHOULD HAVE SOME TYPE OF CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL AS WELL AS THE ARAB STATES. WHEN FONOFF INQUIRED CONCERNING THE NATURE OF "SUCH CONSULTATIONS" WITH ISRAEL, FONOFF REP AGAIN REFERRED TO "CONTACTS" RATHER THAN CONSULTATIONS AND SAID DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE REGARDING THEIR CHARACTER.

3. FONOFF OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT THE MINISTERS HAD STRONG U.S. VIEWS CLEARLY IN MIND DURING THE NOV 20

CONSULTATIONS. WHILE THERE WERE "SOME VOICES URGING
APPEASEMENT" AT THE TABLE, OUR SOURCE SAID THE GERMANS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 081147

O R 261457Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8885

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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EXDIS NOFORN

REACTED STRONGLY AND THE NINE EVIDENTLY AGREED THAT
"A JAPANESE REACTION" WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME
AS IT WOULD BURDEN U.S. EFFORTS TO SECURE THE CEASE
FIRE AND MOVE TOWARD SERIOUS PEACE TALKS. OUR SOURCE
SAID THE MINISTERS ALSO HAD NO DOUBT THAT SUCH A
COURSE WOULD ENTAIL A SERIOUS PROVOCATION TO WASHINGTON.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SENIOR FRG OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBOFF
THAT THE REFERENCES IN THE SECRETARY'S NOV 21 PRESS
CONFERENCE TO MORE AND LESS COOPERATIVE COUNTRIES HAD
AROUSED CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION ON THE PART
OF SENIOR FRG OFFICIALS
THIS SOURCE SAID HE SHARED THE VIEW COMMUNICATED TO
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HIM BY OTHER EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS THAT "THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO SOFTEN US UP" FOR THE NATO MINISTERIAL AND THAT THIS APPROACH, PARTICULARLY ITS PUBLIC ASPECTS, WAS UNFORTUNATE AND WOULD ONLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF PLAYING INTO FRENCH HANDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING COPENHAGEN EC SUMMIT AND U.S./EC DECLARATION.

4. OUR SOURCES WERE VERY RETICENT CONCERNING DISCUSSION OF THE OIL SUPPLY ISSUE PER SE, SAYING THAT MINISTERS SOUGHT TO AVOID DIRECT CONFRONTATION ON THIS MATTER, FOCUSING INSTEAD ON DIPLOMATIC FOLLOW-UP TO NOV 6 MIDEAST DECLARATION. WE ARE TOLD THAT MINISTERS DID NOT GO BEYOND THE NOV 6 "TACIT UNDERSTANDING" ON OIL SUPPLY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY (REFTEL), AND THAT THE DUTCH ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE APPARENT REDISTRIBUTION EFFORTS OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL OIL COMPANIES WILL HAVE ITS EFFECTS. HOWEVER, OUR SOURCES SAY THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT OR BREAK THROUGH NOV 20 ON THE MODALITIES OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING OIL; NEITHER THE FRENCH, BRITISH OR DUTCH SHOWED ANY GIVE ON THIS SUBJECT. THERE WAS A SOMEWHAT GRUDGING CONSENSUS, WITH THE DUTCH MORE GRUDGING THAN THE OTHERS, ON DOUGLAS-HOME'S APPROACH THAT "WE BLOODY WELL NEED TO GET AS MUCH OF THE DARK STUFF AS POSSIBLE AND THEN (RPT THEN, I.E., AFTERWARDS) WE HAVE TO REDISTRIBUTE IT."

5. OUR SOURCE TERMED THE SECRET MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION ON THE MIDEAST TO BE A SUCCESS "BECAUSE IT WAS NOT A FAILURE." HE SAID THE NINE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT AN EARLY OR EASY SOLUTION TO THE OIL SUPPLY ISSUE WILL BE REACHED AND HAVE SOUGHT TO AVOID JOINING SQUARELY THE ISSUE OF AN INTEGRATED COMMUNITY APPROACH FOR FEAR THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD NOT RESOLVE ITS DIVERGENT INTERESTS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE ALSO IS DEEP CONCERN WITHIN THE GERMAN AND OTHER EC GOVERNMENTS THAT THE SITUATION WILL BE GETTING MUCH MORE DIFFICULT IN THE WEEKS TO COME. NONETHELESS, SEVERAL MINISTERS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE NINE COULD FIND A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE MIDEAST OIL ISSUE BY THE TIME OF THE DEC 14-15 COPENHAGEN SUMMIT. THIS VIEW ALSO WAS
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EXPRESSED IN STRONG TERMS OVER THE WEEKEND DURING CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S BRIEF TV ADDRESS ON THE ENERGY CRISIS TO THE GERMAN PEOPLE.

6. OUR SOURCES ARE SENSITIVE AND MUST BE PROTECTED.

HILLENBRAND

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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PARIS
ROME
BRUSSELS
THE HAGUE
LUXEMBOURG
DUBLIN

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